

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A system to retrieve information pertaining to an imaging apparatus, comprising:
5 an imaging apparatus comprising an information retrieval signal generator configured to generate an information retrieval signal;
a communication device connectable to an information network;
a processor configured to execute a series of computer executable instructions;
and
10 a memory device containing an information retrieval program comprising a series of computer executable instructions to detect the information retrieval signal and, in response thereto, to retrieve from the information network, via the communication device, information pertaining to the imaging apparatus.
- 15 2. The system of claim 1, and wherein the information retrieval program further comprises a series of computer executable instructions to print the information.
3. The system of claim 1, and wherein the information retrieval program further comprises a series of computer executable instructions to store the information in the
20 memory device.
4. The system of claim 1, and wherein the communication device, the processor, and the memory device are resident within the imaging apparatus.
- 25 5. The system of claim 4, and wherein the imaging apparatus further comprises a user input device comprising the information retrieval signal generator.
6. The system of claim 4, and wherein the imaging apparatus further comprises a condition detector comprising the information retrieval signal generator.
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7. The system of claim 6, and wherein imaging apparatus is configured to image sheets of media, and further wherein the condition detector comprises a sheet counter configured to count sheets of media imaged by the imaging apparatus.

8. The system of claim 6, and wherein imaging apparatus is configured to image sheets of media using an imaging substance, and further wherein the condition detector is configured to detect a quantity of imaging substance used by the imaging apparatus to image sheets of media.

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9. An imaging apparatus comprising:

a user display configured to present to a user a plurality of retrievable information types, each information type associated with information pertaining to the imaging apparatus;

10 a user input to allow the user to select at least one of the retrievable information types and to generate an associated information retrieval signal in response thereto;

a communication device connectable to an information network; and

15 a controller configured to receive the information retrieval signal and, in response thereto, to use the communication device to retrieve from the information network the associated information pertaining to the imaging apparatus.

10. The imaging apparatus of claim 9, and further comprising:

a memory device containing an information retrieval program; and

20 wherein the information retrieval program comprises a series of computer executable instructions configured to be executed by the processor to cause the processor to use the communication device to retrieve from the information network the associated information pertaining to the imaging apparatus.

25 11. The imaging apparatus of claim 9, and wherein the user input is configured to allow the user to selectively print or display the retrieved information.

12. The imaging apparatus of claim 9, and wherein the memory device contains a plurality of universal resource locators, and wherein each of the plurality of retrievable information types has an associated one of the universal resource locators.

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13. The imaging apparatus of claim 9, and wherein the communication device is a web server.

14. An imaging apparatus comprising:
a condition detector configured to generate an information retrieval signal in response to a detected condition within the imaging apparatus;
a communication device connectable to an information network; and
5 a controller configured to receive the information retrieval signal and, in response thereto, to use the communication device to retrieve from the information network information associated with the detected condition.

15. The imaging apparatus of claim 14, and further comprising a plurality of condition
10 detectors each configured to generate a unique information retrieval signal in response to an associated detected condition within the imaging apparatus, and wherein the controller is further configured to receive the unique information retrieval signal and, in response thereto, to use the communication device to retrieve from the information network information associated with the detected condition.

16. The imaging apparatus of claim 14, and wherein the controller is further configured to print the information associated with the detected condition.

17. The imaging apparatus of claim 16, and wherein the imaging apparatus is a first
20 imaging apparatus, and the controller is further configured to print the information associated with the detected condition using the first imaging apparatus when the first imaging apparatus is capable of printing the information, and to direct the information to a second imaging apparatus for printing when the first imaging apparatus is incapable of printing the information.

18. The imaging apparatus of claim 14, and wherein the imaging apparatus further comprises a user display, and the controller is further configured to display the information associated with the detected condition using the user display.

19. A method of retrieving information pertaining to an imaging apparatus, comprising:

generating an information retrieval signal;

using the signal to initiate a communication session with an information network;

and

during the communication session, retrieving information pertaining to the imaging apparatus from the information network.

20. The method of claim 19, and further comprising printing the information retrieved from the information network.

21. The method of claim 19, and further comprising determining whether the imaging apparatus can print the information retrieved from the information network and, when the imaging apparatus can print the information, printing the information, and when the imaging apparatus cannot print the information, selectively displaying the information via a user display, printing the information using another imaging apparatus, or saving the information to a memory location.

22. The method of claim 19, and further comprising:

providing a menu of information types pertaining to the imaging apparatus;

selecting one of the information types from the menu; and

wherein the information retrieval signal is generated as a result of selecting one of the information types from the menu.

23. The method of claim 19, and further comprising detecting a predetermined condition within the imaging apparatus, wherein the information retrieval signal is generated as a result of detecting a predetermined condition within the imaging apparatus.

24. The method of claim 23, and wherein the imaging apparatus is configured to image sheets of media, and the predetermined condition is a number of sheets of media imaged by the imaging apparatus.

25. The method of claim 23, and wherein the imaging apparatus is configured to generate images using imaging media, and the predetermined condition is a quantity of imaging media used by the imaging apparatus.

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